



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

### **Agricultural Weather Highlights - Friday - December 12, 2003**

- ***In the West***, showery weather continues to aid pastures and winter grains across ***northern California*** and the ***interior Northwest***, but is maintaining very wet conditions ***west of the Washington Cascades***. Dry weather prevails elsewhere in the ***West***, except for scattered snow showers in the ***southern Rockies***.
- ***On the Plains***, light snow is beginning to develop across ***southern portions of the region***, providing much-needed moisture for winter wheat but slowing late-season cotton and sorghum harvesting. Farther north, a patchy, generally shallow snow cover exists from ***Kansas northward into Montana***, providing the poorly established winter wheat crop with some moisture and limited protection from potential weather extremes.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, snow cover and bitterly cold conditions are increasing stress on livestock across the ***upper Mississippi Valley***, where this morning's low temperatures were as low as -15 degrees F.
- ***In the South***, pastures and winter grains are benefiting from recent soil moisture improvements, although cool weather continues to slow crop growth.

**Outlook:** An active weather pattern is forecast to continue through the weekend, as another winter storm will affect areas from the ***southern Plains to the East Coast***. On Friday, moderate to heavy snow will develop on the ***southern Plains*** and spread across the ***Ozark Plateau***, while locally heavy showers and thunderstorms will develop in the ***Gulf Coast region***. During the weekend, significant amounts of snow, sleet, and freezing rain will affect the ***central Appalachians, Mid-Atlantic region, and the Northeast***. Meanwhile in the ***West***, another intense storm system will produce heavy rain, mountain snow, and high winds in the ***Pacific Northwest and northern California***. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for December 17-21 calls for above-normal precipitation along the ***East Coast***, while drier-than-normal weather is expected across the ***West, Plains, and Midwest***. Above-normal temperatures are likely across the ***West***, while cooler-than-normal weather is forecast for the ***Mid-Atlantic and Southeastern States***.

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**Web Site:** <http://www.usda.gov/oce/waob/jawf/AgWxHighlights/TODAYSWX.PDF>